

TIPS FOR USING THE LEARN IT! SECTIONS

Tip #1: Introduce the Unit

Preview the Learn It! section of the unit before diving into lesson plans and activities.

- Provide a summary for your students of what this unit will cover and why it's important to our history.
- Ask students to skim the text by looking for key design elements.
 - * What are the headings? What do they say about the big ideas of the unit?
 - * Explore the focus questions by discussing as a group. Do your students understand what the questions are asking?
 - * Look for words in bold or in another color from the rest of the text. Why are these words different?
 - * What are the important vocabulary words used in this unit? Which are familiar? Which are not? Spend some time defining the vocabulary words that are most critical to understanding the unit.
 - * What kinds of graphics or images are used? Which important ideas do they illustrate?
- Use these key design elements to create a unit outline—or some other form of content map—to organize material. Ask students to revise this outline if needed while they learn more about the topic.



Moose Support for Content-Based Learning

1. The Unit Plans provide **one-page summaries** of the material for educators, with bulleted key points.
2. **Unit vocabulary lists** (available on the first page of each Learn It! section and in the Unit Plans) emphasize key ideas, concepts, and events.
3. **Explainer videos** offer important background information about major events in American history or abstract concepts students will explore in the units.
4. **Printable versions** of the Learn It! material are available by clicking the green print button at the bottom of each page of the Learn It! section. A printable pdf of the entire Learn It! section can be accessed further down the page.
5. **Activities** linked at the bottom of each folder of the Learn It! section give reinforcement opportunities.
6. **Review slides** at the end of each section summarize the section's content into four key points, helping students understand what they should be looking for in the reading.
7. **Graphic organizers** help students process what they're learning and introduce the idea of taking notes on what they read or watch.

Tip #2: Develop Understanding and Review Concepts

Revisit the Learn It! section of the appropriate unit for as long as you're working on the topic.

Students can:

- Use the graphic organizers to process material
- Create visual representations of specific sections
- Write summary paragraphs
- Develop inquiries of things they'd like to know or research
- Complete jigsaw chunking and present their section summaries to other students
- Gather evidence to support specific review points
- Create their own review points (*before they look at the ones we provided*) and see how they match up
- Revise their unit outlines

Tip #3: Extend Comprehension



The final lesson plan for many units is a summative assessment, which is tailored specifically to the material covered in that unit. But there are lots of ways to assess student understanding no matter. Explore how social studies is inherently cross-curricular! Embrace the opportunity to be creative!

- Ask students to create their own assessments for the unit. They could develop a review quiz for fellow students, design a project, shape their own research question or inquiry, or create an artistic representation of what they've learned.
- Work in some math practice by having them translate the content into data that can be displayed on a map or graph.
- Delve into science by having them make models of inventions or technology discussed in the unit, whether simple farming tools or a water-based power source or a new video game. New Hampshire was home to lots of new inventions over the years—help students appreciate the science and creativity involved in finding new ways to innovate, as did the generations before us.